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MEMORANDUM

To: Heather Murakami
Administrative Services Officer

From: Ron Menor *RM*
Council Chair and Presiding Officer

Date: March 29, 2017

Re: Travel Report on Trip to NACo Conference in Washington, D.C. (February 25, 2017 to February 28, 2017)

Introduction

The following is a summary of my activities which included my participation in the National Association of Counties (NACo) 2017 Legislative Conference and meetings with members of Hawaii's congressional delegation and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Executive Director and Acting Administrator Matt Welbes, Associate Administrator Henrika Buchanan, and senior staff at their FTA offices.

This is the first time that I have attended a NACo Conference as a member of the Honolulu City Council. The conference provided an excellent opportunity for county officials from municipalities throughout the country to discuss issues of mutual concern, share information about county programs and best practices, and focus on legislation that Congress and the White House will be considering that could have a significant impact on county governments.

Saturday, February 25, 2017

In the morning, I attended the First Time Attendee Orientation and Breakfast. This breakfast provided an opportunity for first time attendees to a NACo conference to learn more about the organization, how to get involved, and how to navigate the conference. I also had the opportunity to ask questions of a NACo ambassador and to interact with other county elected officials in a small group setting. We shared how our respective counties are dealing with pressing issues such as transportation and homelessness.

Next, I attended a Transportation Policy Steering Committee Resolutions Meeting. Much of the discussion focused on the importance of federal funding for county transportation and other infrastructure projects. The NACo officials who spoke expressed serious misgivings and uncertainty about the commitment of Congress and the White House to provide necessary levels of funding to the counties under a new Trump Administration.

In this regard, they emphasized that county officials need to be actively engaged in urging members of Congress to support county surface transportation priorities in any proposed infrastructure package to be introduced by the Trump Administration and considered by Congress. In November of 2016, then President-elect Trump announced his intent to introduce a potentially \$1 trillion infrastructure package designed to create, improve, renovate, and repair our nation's aging infrastructure. This package, if realized, could affect counties' ability to prioritize and advocate for specific projects. The position of NACo is that key funding and financing measures must include all of the following: 1) preservation of the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds; 2) dedicated funding for locally owned infrastructure; and 3) policies to provide an environment for innovative financing that would allow local governments and transportation authorities, such as counties, to leverage federal financing for capital projects.

A NACo representative who coordinates the organization's lobbying efforts in Congress pointed out that the earliest that Congress will take up a transportation infrastructure package would be sometime next year because the issues that have a higher priority in the Republican-controlled Congress include the Affordable Care Act ("Obama Care") and tax reform. It was pointed out that one of the key tax reform proposals is repatriation legislation under which offshore U.S. companies that do not pay U.S. taxes would have their corporate tax rates cut as a way of incentivizing the relocation of their operations to this country. In the process, the earnings of these companies would then be subject to federal taxation. This arrangement could potentially generate billions of dollars which could be used to fund local transportation initiatives.

Another meeting which I attended involved the Justice and Public Safety Policy Steering Committee. This meeting also focused on legislation pending before Congress that NACo has been advocating. NACo is urging members of Congress, especially those who serve on the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, to provide sustained funding for U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) programs that support county courts and law enforcement, juvenile justice and other assorted agencies in the annual appropriations process. NACo is also pushing for reauthorization of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) which provides critical resources to state and local juvenile crime prevention and deterrence efforts. Moreover, NACo is pushing for comprehensive emergency management legislation.

There was also an informative lunch discussion on "Addressing Homelessness in Your County". The discussion explored a variety of issues counties are facing relating to homelessness, including its causes, the health care needs of homeless individuals, special populations and the overlap with the justice system. National experts discussed affordable and

stable housing options for individuals and families and how to provide the supports and services that are often necessary to maintain such housing. Participants also shared information about their own counties' work on homelessness.

Sunday, February 26, 2017

An informative and thought provoking session focused on the growing problem of opioid use in our communities. It is a looming issue that county governments will increasingly have to grapple with.

The session was called "Town Hall on the Opioid Epidemic: Leading In A Crisis". Abuse of prescription drugs and heroin has reached epidemic levels in municipalities throughout this country. During this meeting, a panel of experts which included several members of the National City-County Task Force on the Opioid Epidemic discussed with NACo members effective responses that local leaders have formulated and the successes and challenges that they have faced.

There were many other meetings and sessions on this day. These included: a breakfast meeting on "Supporting a Healthy County in a Changing Health Environment"; a presentation by IBTS Onhand, an on-line resource of natural disaster related case studies, tools, and tips being developed to meet the needs of stakeholders at the local level; and an Arts and Culture Commission meeting that featured an update on the current state of the arts in the United States, and a county example of how to use the arts and culture to advance community and economic development and improve quality of life.

In the evening, Councilmember Ikaika Anderson and I joined other Hawaii State Association of Counties (HSAC) members at a dinner meeting to share observations about the

conference, and discuss issues affecting our respective island counties and the status of HSAC measures pending before the state legislature.

Monday, February 27, 2017

An informative session which I attended was “Healthy and Inclusive Neighborhood Development: A ‘How To’ Discussion for Elected Officials”. This session explored federal and local tools for advancing strong housing policies that promote vibrant communities, equitable development and that address community needs. The panel of speakers included current and former elected officials as well as leaders representing public housing authorities and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Among their topics, the panelists discussed HUD programs that counties can tap into; implementation of Fair Housing policies; and the various types of public-private partnerships that have been employed successfully in other counties to develop affordable low income and work force housing and revitalize communities.

There were many other sessions on this day including: “Building Leadership: Creating A Collaborative County Government”; “Foreign Investments and U.S. Exports: A Networking Opportunity for County Elected Officials”; and “Outlook for Federal Legislative and Policy Issues Impacting Counties”.

HSAC members also set aside time in the afternoon to meet with members of Hawaii’s Congressional Delegation in their Capitol offices. Several HSAC members, including Councilmember Ikaika Anderson, met with Senator Mazie Hirono, and I met with Congresswoman Colleen Hanabusa and her Chief of Staff Michael Formby, who is the former Director of the City Department of Transportation Services, at the Cannon House Office Building. I briefly shared with them NACo’s legislative priorities and asked Congresswoman

Hanabusa to do everything that she could to ensure continued federal funding to the counties including transportation funds for bus and road improvements, and CDBG and HOME funds for affordable housing projects and programs for the homeless. She offered her commitment that she would continue to support the counties' priorities.

Tuesday, February 28, 2017

There were several interesting sessions in the morning. One workshop entitled "Getting Started With County-Based Cross Sector Partnerships" was designed for county leaders interested in tackling public issues in collaboration with partners from the business and non-profit sectors in their communities. Another session provided a high-level overview of debt issuance and the role it can play in a county's capitol planning or economic development.

During the General Session, conference delegates heard from a renowned political commentator and presidential historian, and several influential members of Congress - Senators Mark Warner (D-Va) and Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn) and Representative Rob Bishop (R-Utah). Their remarks were informative and offered valuable insights and perspectives on Congress and the Federal government during the first 100 days of the Trump Administration.

Senator Warner shared with conference attendees his view that the current capitalist system in America has not been working for enough people and provided many stories to help illustrate his points from his vast background in the private sector. He is advocating the adoption of federal policies that will lend more support to working people in this country.

Senator Klobuchar discussed issues that she and other members of Congress have been tackling including the FAST Act; tax-exempt status of municipal bonds; tax reform, including repatriation legislation affecting offshore companies; strengthening student loan programs;

immigration reform; and federal support for the counties. She warned county leaders to be extremely concerned about federal proposals that would inevitably “land in the counties’ laps”.

Representative Bishop pitched House Speaker Paul Ryan’s “Better Way” plan to transfer more regulatory authority from the federal government to the counties.

Political commentator Jim Vanderhei, co-founder of both Axios and Politico, spoke about political changes that are being brought about by the Trump Administration and advised attendees to keep “expecting volatility, then just be delighted when normal stuff happens”.

Presidential historian and author Michael Beschloss talked about his new book entitled Presidential Courage which I had the good fortune of buying and getting autographed. He also shared his perspectives as a presidential historian about the lessons that he has learned about qualities of leadership that are relevant to today’s political leaders. He also noted that historically, congressional lawmakers on both sides of the aisle tended to work more collaboratively than in today’s Congress where there is such a deep partisan divide. Hopefully, these are the kinds of divisions that government officials in the City and County of Honolulu will be able to avoid.

In the afternoon, Councilmember Anderson and I met the Executive Director and senior staff of the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to discuss the Honolulu Rail Transit Project and the funding challenges the project faces. FTA officials emphasized the importance of the forthcoming project Recovery Plan. They said that should the Honolulu community be able to move forward with finding additional local funds to close the gap between the financial resources currently available to the project and the more recent project cost estimate – identified as Plan A in the FTA’s letter of December 6, 2017 – the federal assurances to fund its share of

the project costs, as specified in our Full Funding Grant Agreement (FFGA), would remain in place.

If the local community were to choose Plan B – as identified in the December 6 letter, which would build the project only to the extent of our existing financial resources – FTA officials made clear that, at a minimum, a supplemental environmental assessment and, more likely, a supplemental environmental impact statement (EIS) would be required, which would lead to additional project delays and costs to complete those analyses, and quite possibly, litigation by project opponents. They acknowledged that there are substantive challenges in pursuing Plan B.

Additionally, if the scope of the project were substantively changed, they stated that it would need to renegotiate the terms of the FFGA. Among the items subject to renegotiation could be the federal financial contribution to the project, depending on the extent to which the project scope and intended transit benefits are changed.

Conclusion

In summary, NACo's legislative priorities for 2017 are as follows:

- Protect Municipal Bonds
- Protect the Federal-State-Local Partnership for Medicaid
- Promote County Surface Transportation Priorities
- Work for a More Effective Definition of 'Waters of the U.S'
- Support County Authority to Collect Existing Sales Tax
- Support Policies to Promote Behavioral Health and Criminal Justice Reform
- Support the Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) and Secure Rural Schools (SRS) Programs

- **Support Programs That Assist Counties to Prevent and Reduce Poverty**

City Council
City and County of Honolulu

CLAIM FOR TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT

Date: March 13, 2017

Traveler: Council Chair Ron Menor

Event: 2017 NACo Legislative Conference

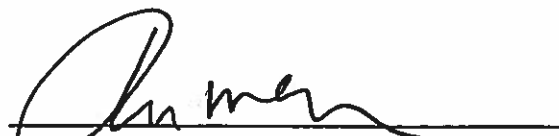
Location: Washington, D.C.

Dates: From February 24, 2017

To March 1, 2017

Description	Amount	Notes:
1. Registration Fee	490.00	
2. Airfare	1052.71	
3. Hotel	2136.59 ✓	
4. Meals	23.98 ✓	
5. Ground Transportation	50.00 ✓	
6. Tips	12.00 ✓	
7. Other	50.00 ✓	Checked Baggage Fee (25.00 + 25.00)
Other		
Other		
8. Adjustment		
TOTAL REIMBURSEMENT	3815.28 2272.57	

This is to certify that the above data, based upon receipts submitted to Council Administrative Support Services via a CCLTRVL02 form, is accurate. Further, I am claiming reimbursement for expenses associated with a trip in which City business was conducted and personal funds were used to advance payment:


Signature of Traveler

MAR 13 2017

Date